

The Mystery in Santa's Toyshop

By Kathy Darling


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THE MYSTERY IN SANTA'S TOYSHOP

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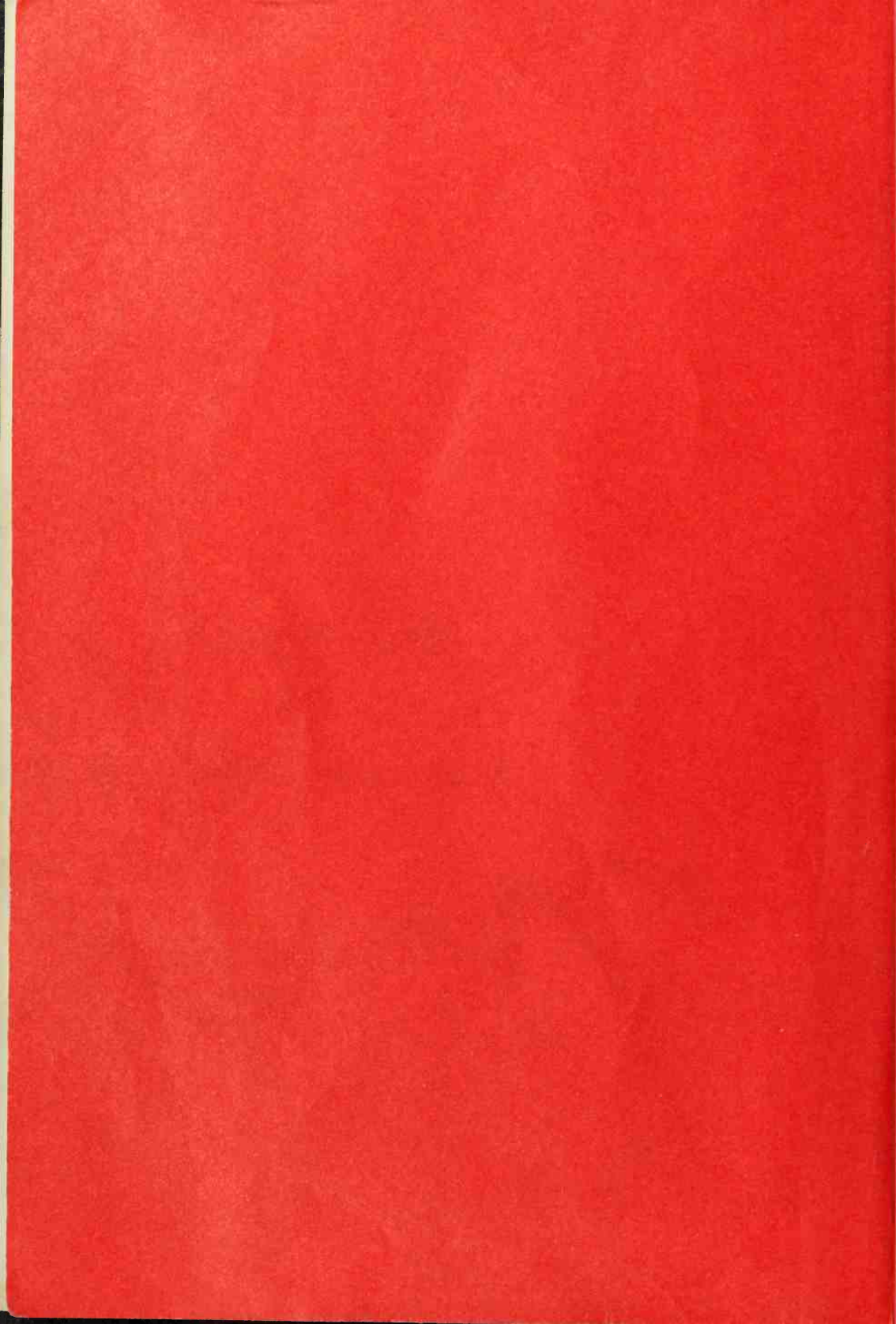
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**The Mystery
in
Santa's Toyshop**





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By Kathy Darling
Pictures by Lori Pierson



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The Mystery in Santa's Toyshop

"Hurry, hurry," called Santa
to all the little elves.

"There are only five days
until Christmas.

All the toys must be ready
on Christmas Eve."



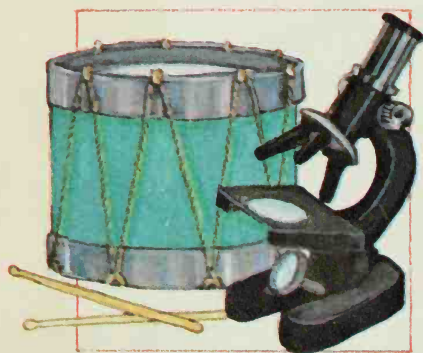


Paddles the Penguin
ran across the ice floor.
“Here are some letters
for you, Santa,” he said.

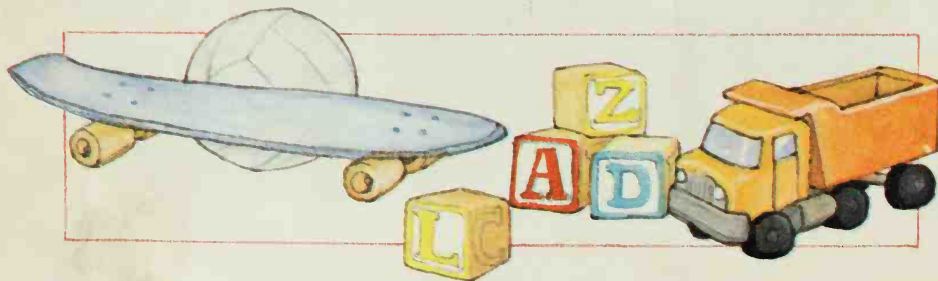
“Oh, my! We need more toys,”
Santa called to the elves.



The little elves hammered
and sawed and painted.
They cut and sewed.



When night came
they had made
many more Christmas toys.





Santa was pleased.
“If we work hard
until Christmas Eve,
there will be enough toys,”
he said.

The next day
Santa began to pack his bag.
“Where is the little boat
you made for Tommy?”
Santa asked Red Elf.





“And where is the beach ball
you made for Sue?”
he asked Goldie.



All Santa's elves looked at the toys
on their work tables.

"The boat is gone!"

Red Elf cried.

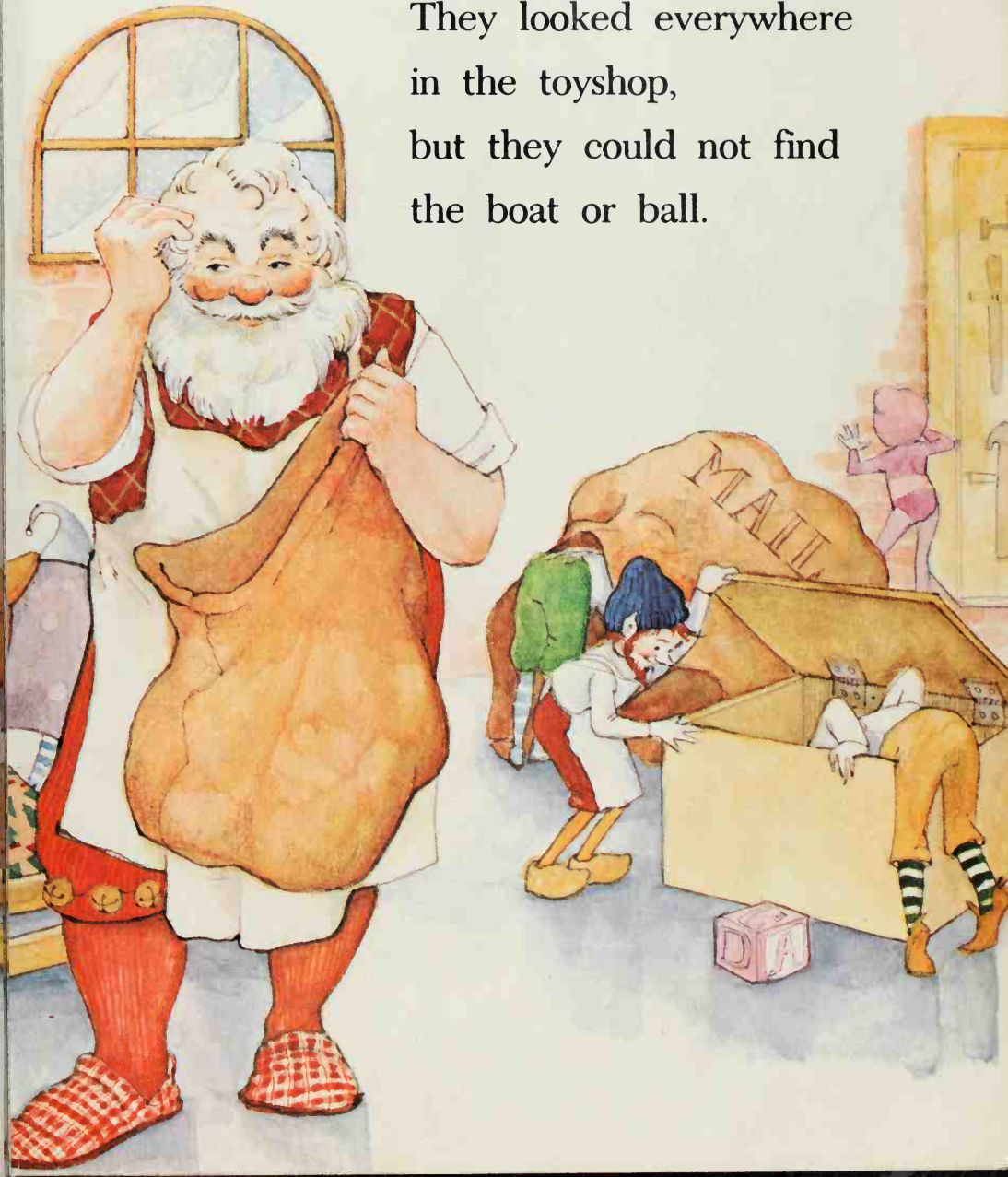
"It was here last night."

"I can't find the beach ball,"
cried Goldie.

"Where can it be?"



“Let’s all look
for the missing toys,”
Santa said to the elves.
They looked everywhere
in the toyshop,
but they could not find
the boat or ball.





Blue Elf could not find
the rubber duck
he had made for Billy.

“Someone is taking the toys,”
Santa said.

“We must find out who it is.”

The elves worked hard all day
to make many new toys.



“Who is taking our toys?”

Goldie asked Blue Elf.

“I don’t know,” Blue Elf said.

“I hope Santa can find out.”



Santa and Paddles
went to the barn
to feed the reindeer.
Santa gave Comet
two big carrots.



“You forgot to feed Cupid,”

Paddles told Santa.

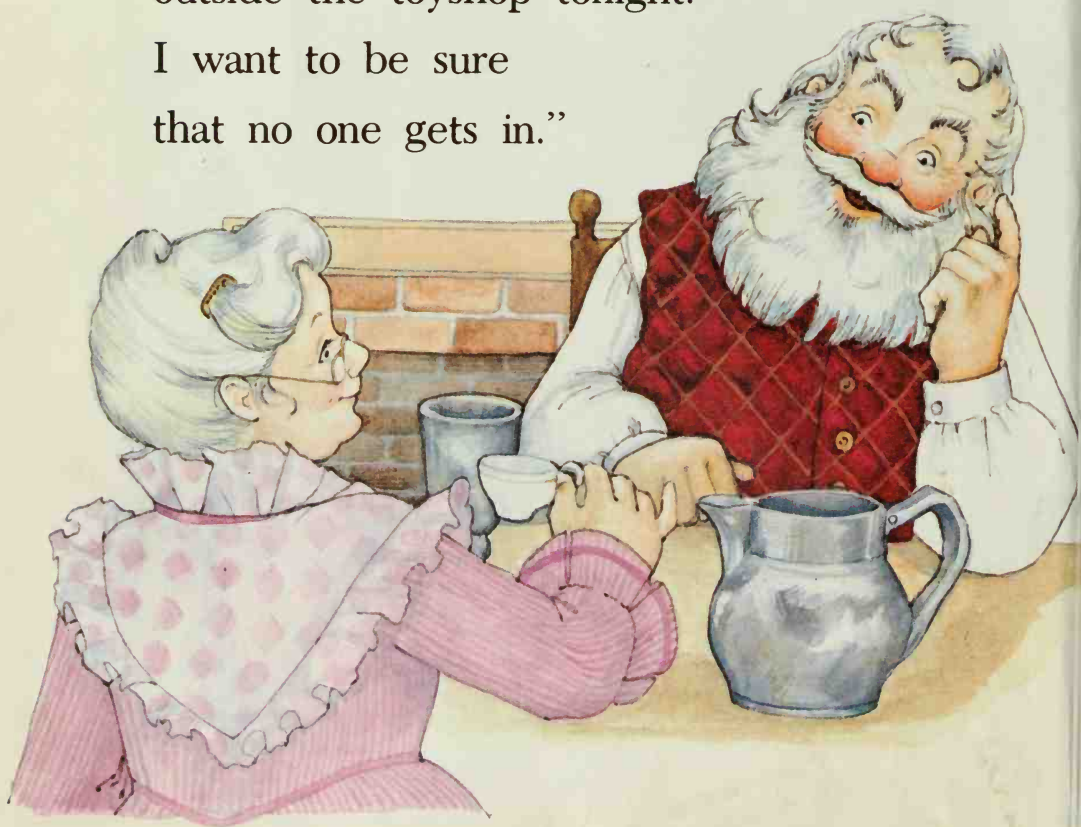
“I’m so upset about

who is taking the toys

that I forgot her,” Santa cried.



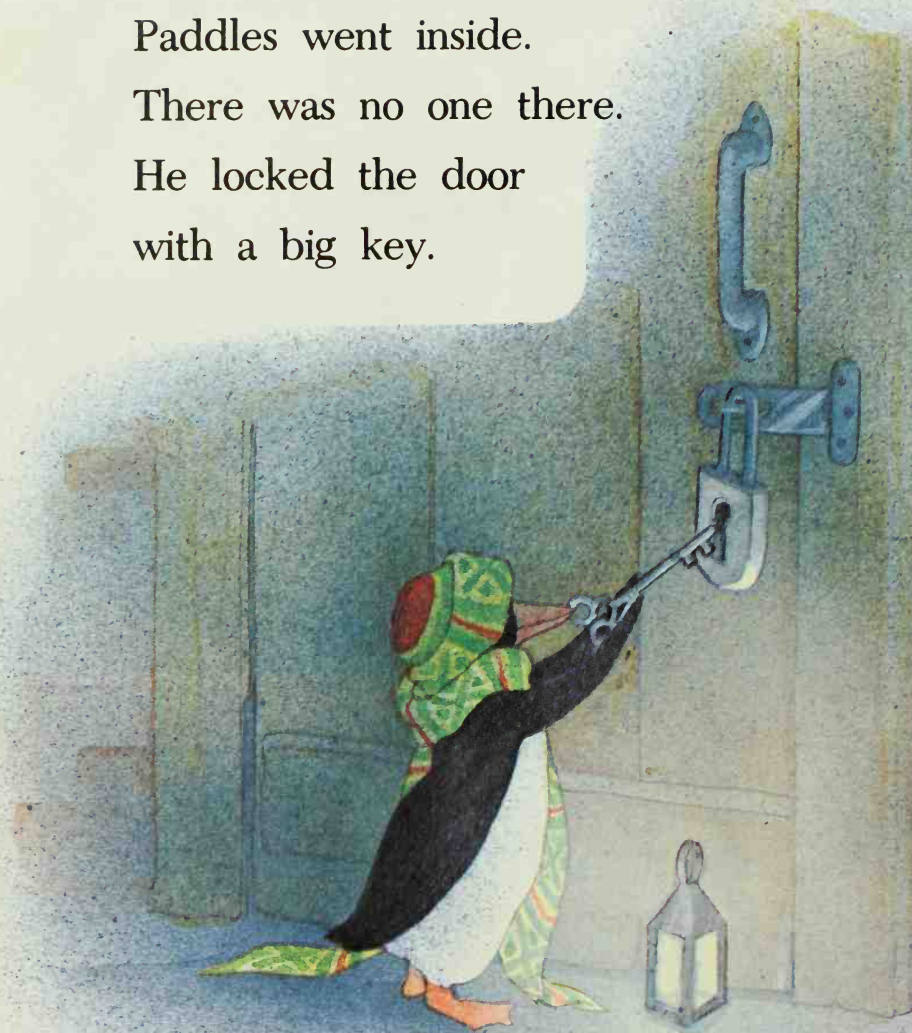
After everyone had sat down
to dinner that night
Santa asked
about the missing toys.
No one had taken them.
“Then I have a plan,”
Santa said.
“Paddles will stay
outside the toyshop tonight.
I want to be sure
that no one gets in.”





That night,
Paddles put on
his warm hat and scarf.
He went down the hill
to the toyshop.

Paddles went inside.
There was no one there.
He locked the door
with a big key.



All night, Paddles walked around
on the ice outside the toyshop.

He was still there
when Santa and the elves
came to work in the morning.
“No one has been here,”
Paddles said to Santa.
The tired penguin yawned.
“It was quiet all night.”



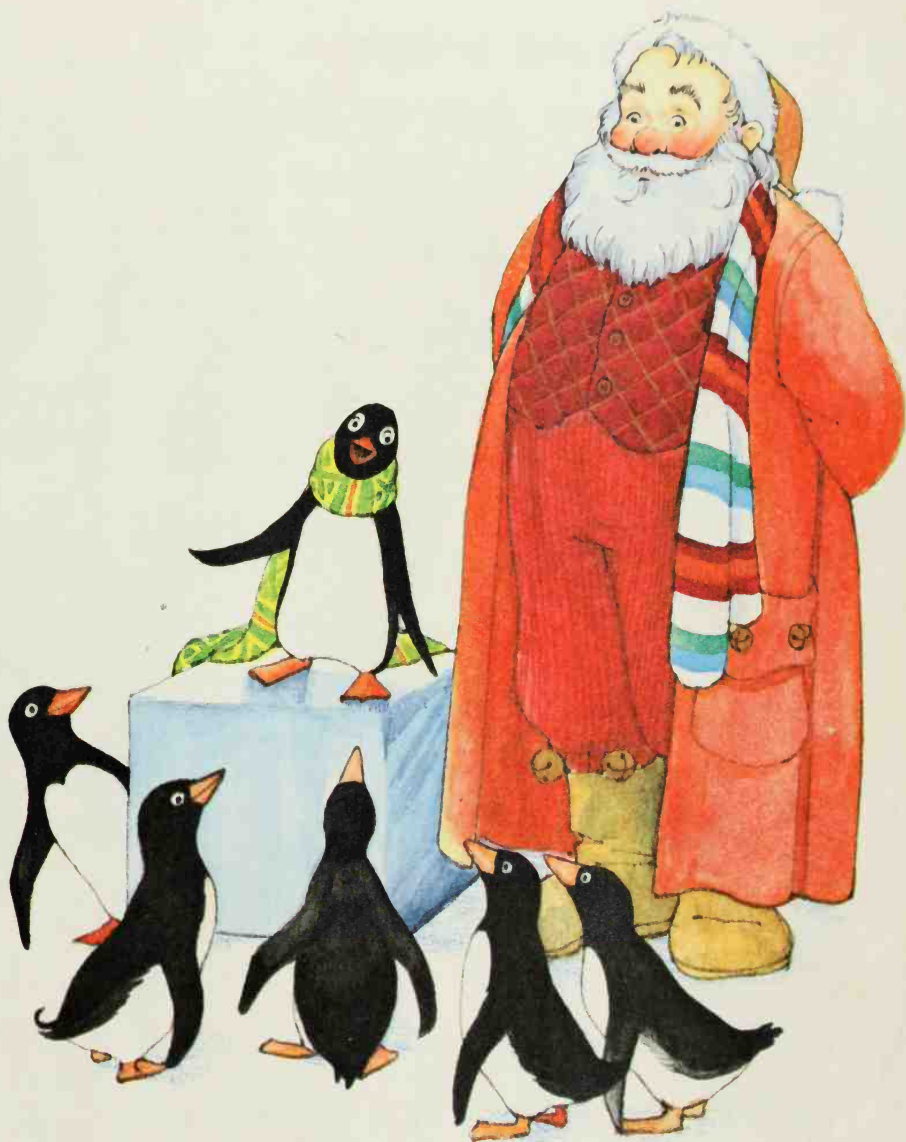
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But when Santa began
to put toys in his bag,
the pail and shovel for Ginny
were gone. The float for Ann
was missing too.

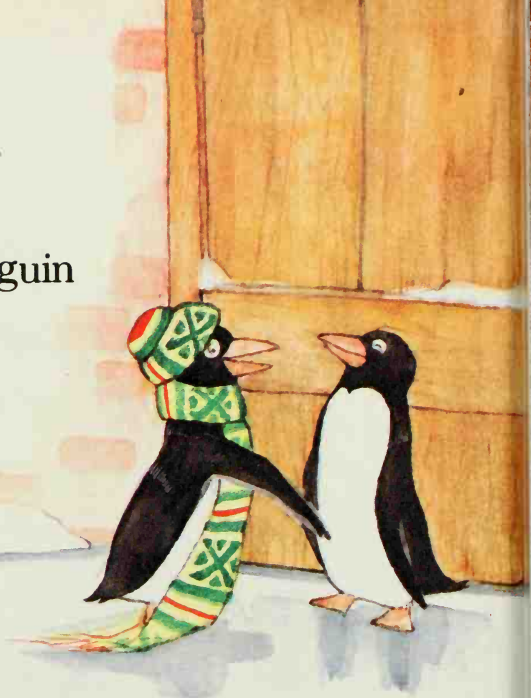
“How could anyone
get into the toyshop
when Paddles was outside?”
Santa wondered.

He and the elves worked hard
making new toys.

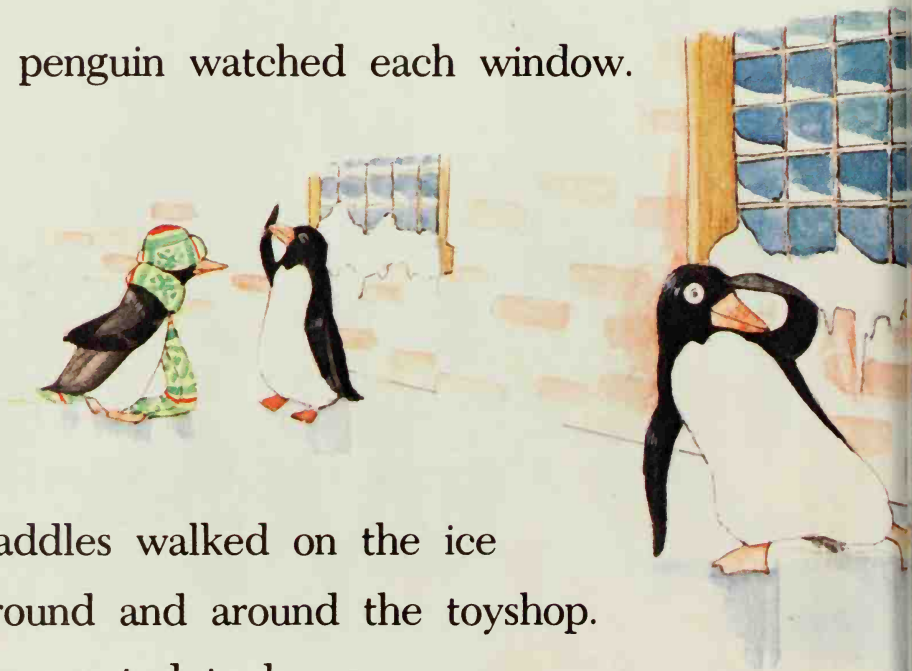
Then Santa had a plan.
He asked Paddles if his friends
would help to watch the toyshop.
That night a line of penguins
went down to the toyshop.



Paddles put one penguin
by the toyshop door.



A penguin watched each window.



Paddles walked on the ice
around and around the toyshop.
He wanted to be sure
that no one went to sleep.

The next morning
Santa and the elves
quickly counted the toys.
“Oh, no!” cried the elves.
“More of the Christmas toys
are missing.”
“Who is taking our toys?”
asked Santa.





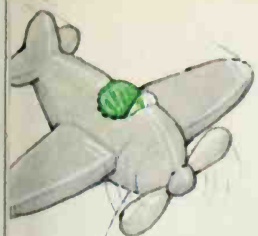
Paddles thought about
the mystery of the missing toys
while he ate a Christmas cookie.

Then he had an idea.

“Tonight I will hide
inside the shop,”
the little penguin
whispered to Santa.

“Then I can see
who is taking the toys.”



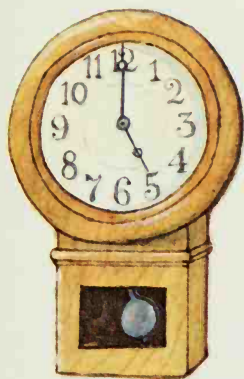


The elves worked very hard
making lots of new toys.



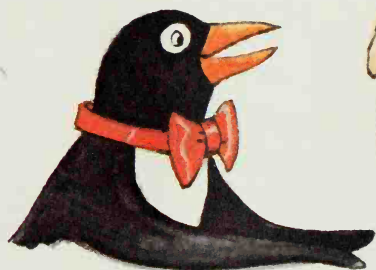


It was quiet in the toyshop
until Red Elf
tried to pick up
the new boat for Tommy.
It was stuck on the ice floor.
“Now how did that happen?”
the elves asked one another.



At five o'clock
the elves left the toyshop.

Mrs. Claus brought Paddles
a fish for his dinner.



After he had eaten,
Paddles looked for a hiding place.
He found a place to hide
behind the sleds.
“No one will see me here,”
he thought.

It was dark and quiet
in the toyshop.



After a long time,
Paddles heard a strange noise.
The noise came again.
It was louder.

Paddles peeked around the sleds.
He saw something white
move on the ice floor.
In the dark
he could not tell what it was.

Paddles was afraid.
He watched
while the white thing
cut a hole in the floor.



“What is happening?”

Paddles said to himself.

“Who could this be?”

Suddenly a big thing
was standing on the ice.

It started to move
around the toyshop.

Paddles was very scared.

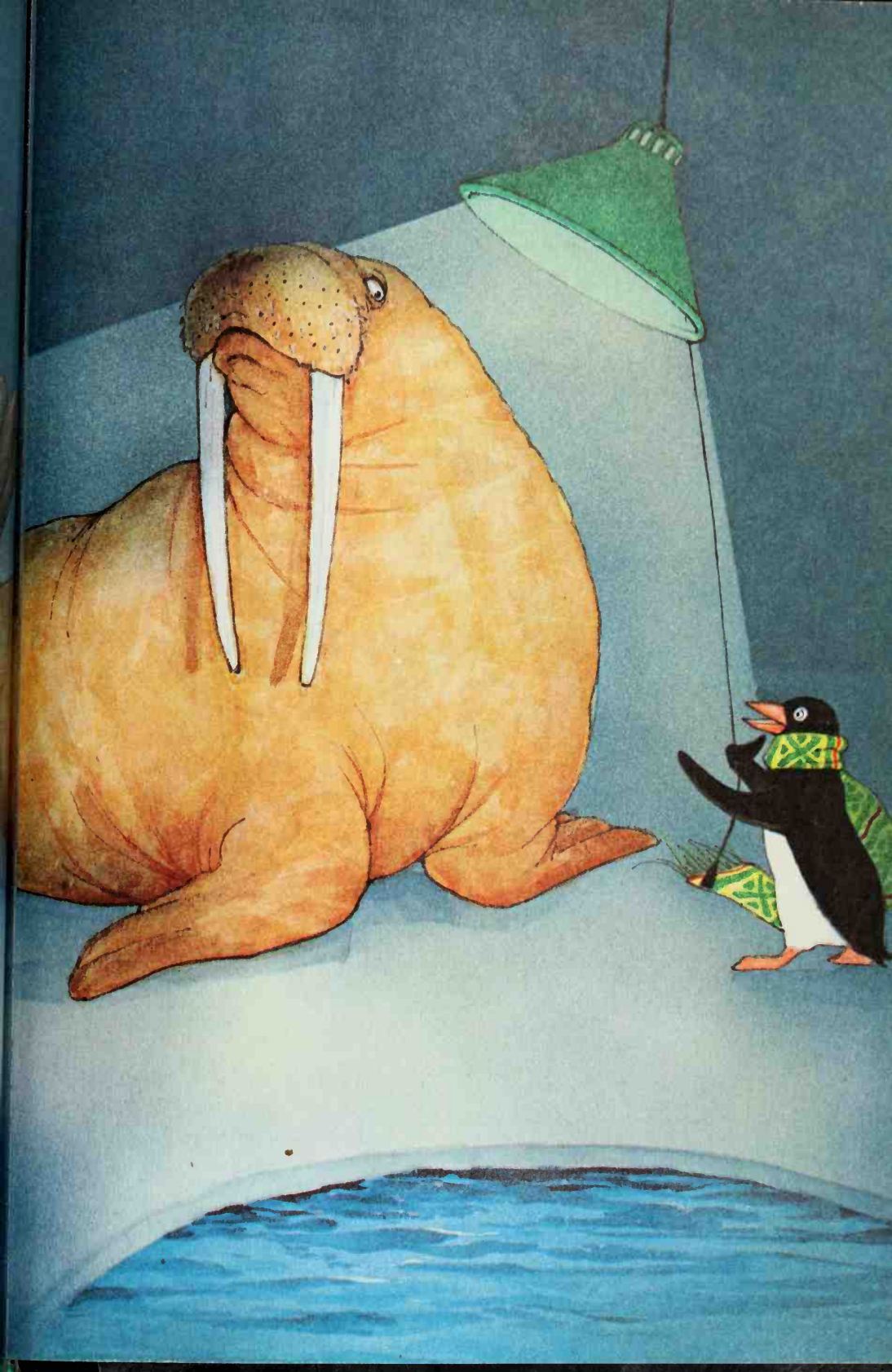
“Stop!” he cried,
as he moved toward the thing.
He turned on the light.

The big thing
was a mother walrus.

“What are you doing here?”

Paddles asked her.



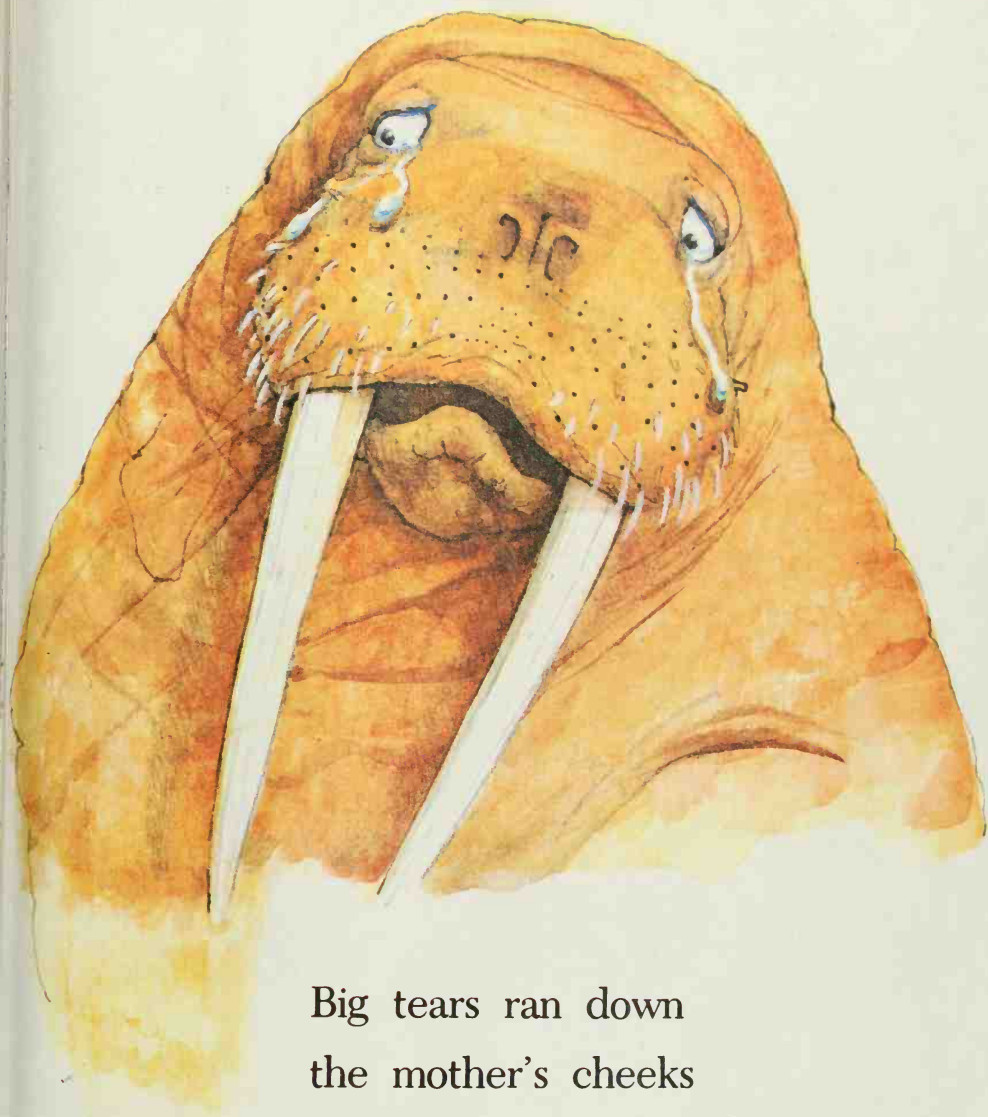


“I saw all the pretty toys
in the toyshop,” she said.

“Santa never comes
to see us at Christmas.

So I took
some toys for my children.”





Big tears ran down
the mother's cheeks
and into her whiskers.
“I wanted my babies
to have a merry Christmas,”
Mrs. Walrus said.



Santa and the elves
saw the light come on.
They ran down the hill
to the toyshop.

Paddles met them at the door.
“I know who took the toys,”
he said.





Everyone looked at the walrus.
They were angry
that she had taken the toys.

“I’m sorry I took toys
that were for other children,”
Mrs. Walrus told Santa.
“But all children everywhere
should have toys for Christmas.”



“May I help you
to make more toys?” she asked.

“Of course,” said Santa.

“And you can keep
all the toys you took.”





“If Mrs. Walrus helps,
we can make enough toys
for all walrus children,”
said the elves.



Now the walrus was very happy.

Santa looked at the hole
in the ice floor.

“So that’s how you got in,”
he said.

“Yes, I cut a hole
with my big teeth,”
Mrs. Walrus told Santa.



“Oh,” said Red Elf.

“Now I know why Tommy’s boat
was stuck to the floor.

It froze there
when the water turned to ice,”
he said happily.

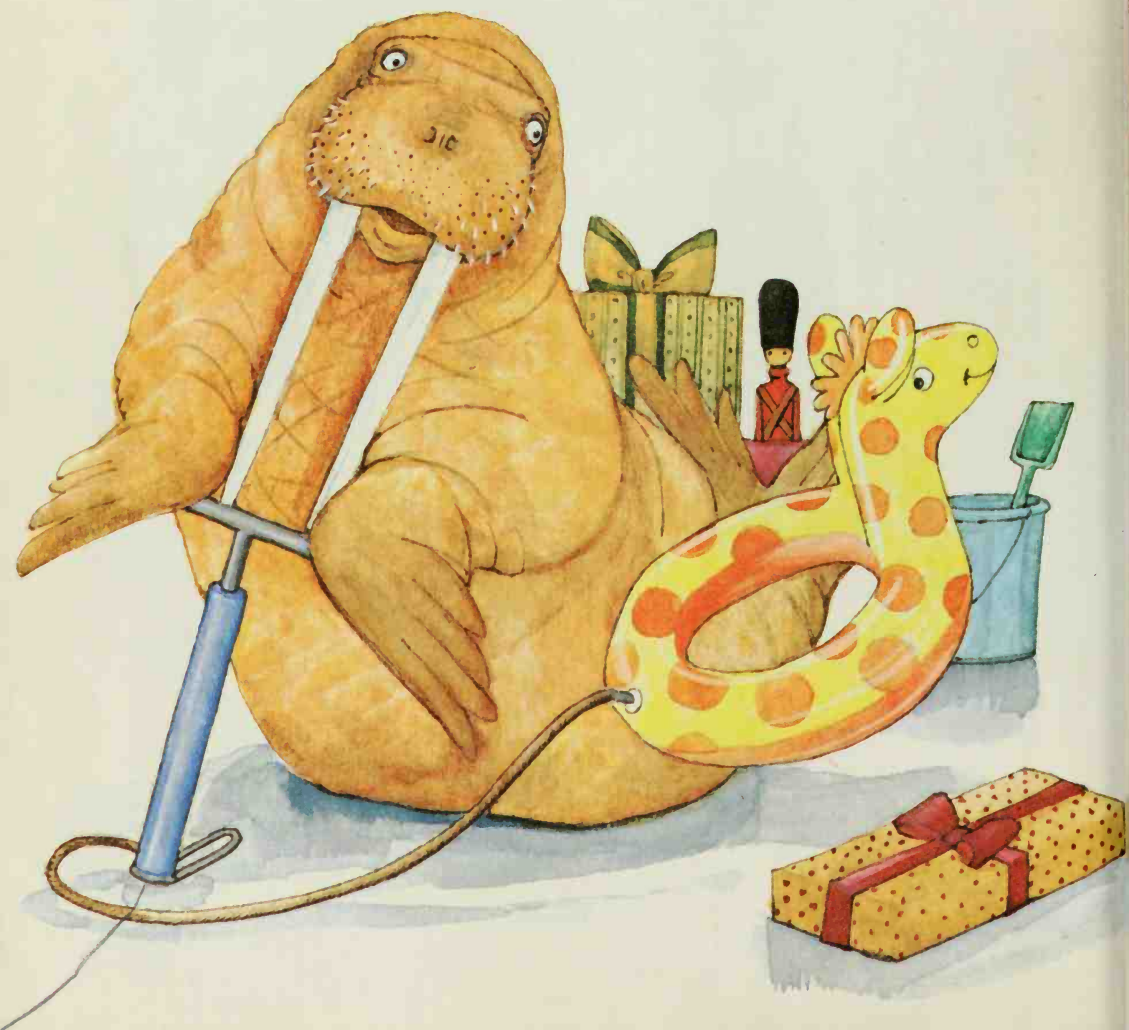


Then Mrs. Claus asked everyone
to the house for breakfast.



After they had eaten
they began to work.

The mother walrus
worked very hard in the toyshop.
She was a good toy maker.
At the end of the day,
all the toys were finished.





Everyone helped Santa
pack them into his sled.
“I am glad the mystery is over,”
said Santa Claus.

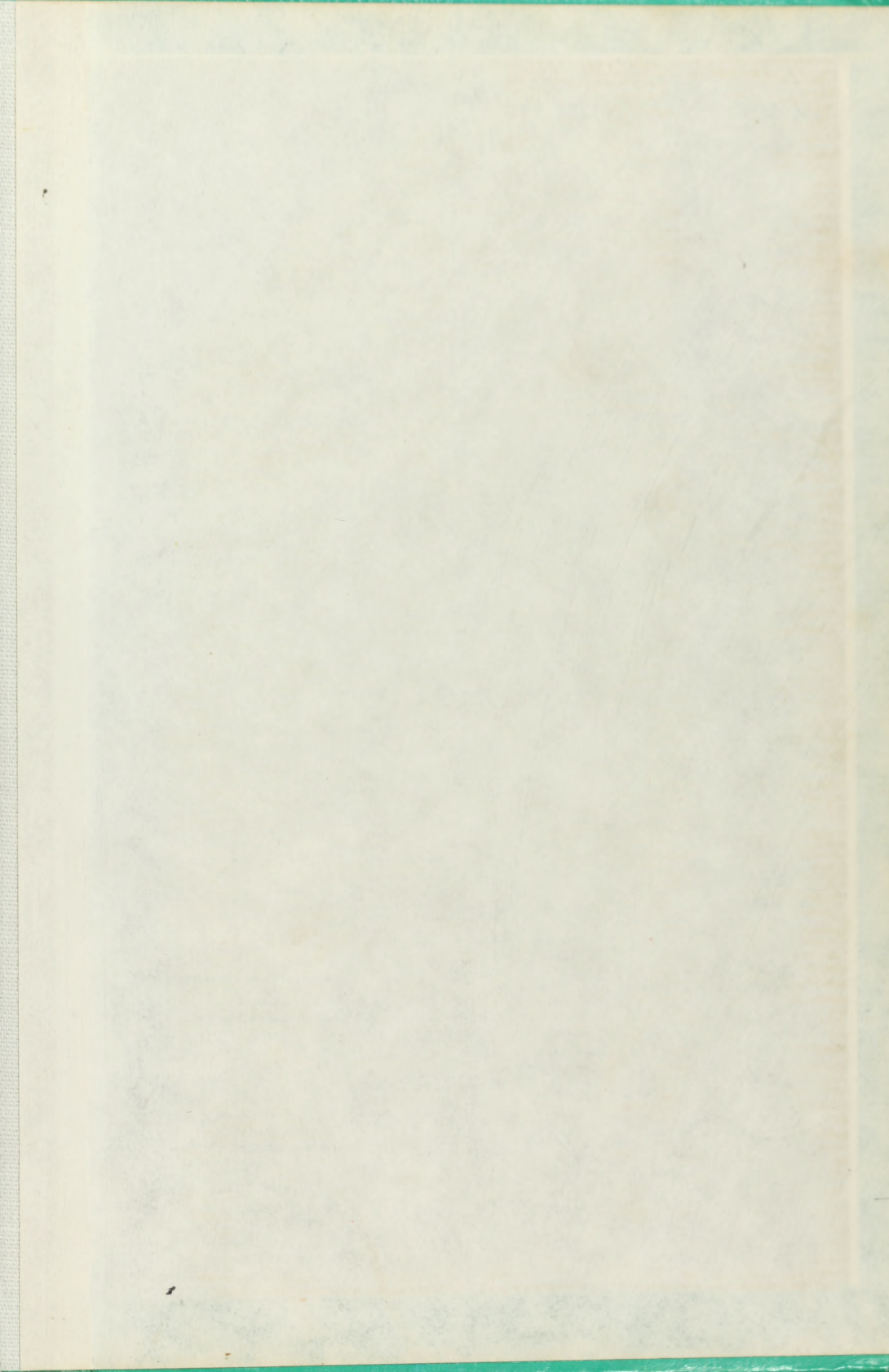
“And thank you
for your help, Mrs. Walrus.
I will never forget
to leave Christmas presents
for all the walrus children!”



And he never did.

And thank you
for your help, Mr. Wilson
I will never forget
to have I think as possible
for all the money I spent

And so now I





A Garrard Mystery Book